

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-05 DRC-01 RSC-01 /018 W

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R 141430Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6892

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, AR

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: "AERO-ISLA" INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

REF STATE 120865

1. EMBASSY ARRANGING DURING COMING WEEK INTERVIEWS WITH KEY ARGENTINE OFFICIALS CONNECTED WITH AERO-ISLA PROJECT TO OBTAIN THE VERY LATEST INFORMATION CONCERNING PLANS AND ATTITUDES TOWARD PROJECT. REGRET DELAY, OWING TO ABSENCE OF KEY OFFICIALS THIS WEEK BECAUSE OF LOCAL HOLIDAY AND UNEXPECTED GENERAL STRIKE.

2. THREE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ARE INVOLVED WITH PROJECT AND THIS CREATES SOME COMPLICATIONS. HOWEVER, AIR FORCE APPARENTLY WISHES TO PUSH AHEAD AND HAS GOOD RECORD FOR GETTING WHAT IT WANTS. WE BELIEVE THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT AMONG AGENCIES CONCERNING DESIRABILITY OF PROJECT, BUT ONLY WITH REGARD TO HOW IT WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AND UNDER WHICH AGENCY. RESOLVING GOA INTERNAL PROBLEMS COULD, OF COURSE, AFFECT TIMING OF PROJECT.

3. WHEN WE LAST INTERVIEWED AIR FORCE DIRECTOR OF INFRA-STRUCTURE ABOUT A MONTH AGO, HE TOLD US AIR FORCE WANTS TO CALL FOR BIDS BY CONSULTING FIRMS WHO, IN ASSOCIATION WITH ARGENTINE FIRMS, WOULD UNDERTAKE TOTAL PLANNING OF PROJECT, OVERSEE ITS EXECUTION AND ARRANGE FINANCIAL PACKAGE TO COVER ENTIRE PROJECT.

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4. WE HAVE HEARD OF NO INTEREST IN THE PROJECT BY OTHER

COUNTRIES.

5. FYI. WE HAVE RECEIVED LETTER FROM AIRWAYS ENGINEERING
COPORATION, WHICH HAS INDICATED INTEREST APPARENTLY AFTER
HAVING BEEN CONTACTED BY USDOC. WE HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED PROJECT
WITH LOCAL PROJECT SUPERVISOR OF GREAT LAKES DREDGING/WESTERN
CONTRACTING CONSORTIUM WHICH IS CARRYING OUT DREDGING OPERATION
IN PARANA RIVER. HE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST SINCE,
UPON COMPLETION OF PRESENT DREDGING PROJECT, HIS DREDGES WILL
BE ON SITE AND FREE FOR SOME OTHER MAJOR PROJECT. END FYI.

6. WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO REPORT FURTHER BY JUNE 20.
MONTLLOR

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